

Economic Responsibility

That financial leaders will reject any economy of exclusion and seek to open new paths to the common good

This month we are asked to consider what it means to pursue the common good and learn about the consequences of our choices



Austria is located in Western Europe and is made up of various terrains including mountain ranges and the fertile plans of the Danube River valley. Over the centuries many peoples, kingdoms and empires have claimed parts or all of what is known as Austria today.

The Roman Empire ruled over this region for 500 years which eventually became known as the Holy Roman Empire.

In time, this empire faced conflicts with other empires and became greatly weakened giving way to a new national identity. This was again tested in the face of two world wars causing great suffering. In 1955, Austria re-established itself as a sovereign nation.

Christianity can trace its history in Austria to around 174 AD and by the 3rd century, it became widespread.

During the Protestant Reformation many Catholics converted, but eventually returned to their Catholic faith after the counter reformation. The Church suffered greatly during World War II, but eventually was restored.



God's Word for Mission

“Love one another as I have loved you. ...It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you to go and bear good fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command: love one another” (John 15:12;16-17).

“The dignity of the human person, realized in community with others, is the criterion against which all aspects of economic life must be measured” (Pope John XXIII, Mater et Magistra).

Promoting Knowledge of Faith

A Saint for Mission: St. Katherine Drexel



Katherine Drexel was born in 1858 in Philadelphia. Her mother died only five weeks after her birth. Her father remarried in 1860. She grew up in a loving family that prayed together and served the poor in their area. When Katherine's stepmother died from cancer, her life took a dramatic turn. She became filled with a passionate love for God and took a special interest in former slaves and Native Americans. When her father died, Katherine and her sisters received a large estate which they immediately began sharing with the St. Francis Mission on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

In 1887, she made a visit to Rome and had a private audience with Pope Leo XIII. Katherine was seeking missionaries to help serve the Indian missions. The Pope looked at Katherine and said, “you should be a missionary.” She decided to give herself and her inheritance totally over to serving native Americans and African Americans. She entered the Sisters of Mercy Convent in 1889 and eventually established the Sisters of Blessed Sacrament to exclusively serve these two groups. Katherine saw a direct connection between her love of the Eucharist and the dignity of all people.

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For the rest of her life Katherine worked to educate and uplift minority peoples. By the time of her death, she had more than 500 sisters teaching in 63 schools and 50 missions in 16 states. She died in 1955 and was canonized a saint in 1988. She is the patron saint for racial justice and philanthropists. Her feast day is March 3rd.

Community and the Common Good



Refugees arriving in Austria

The Catholic Church teaches that the common good is the “sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or individuals, to reach their fulfillment. ... This includes respecting the dignity of each individual, providing for what is needed for a truly human life including food, education, shelter, clothing etc., and securing peace and security for all individuals (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1905 - 1909).

Societies and governments are asked to promote the common good. In some situations, the challenge confronting a society is so great, that the government is unable to respond adequately. Therefore, members of the community need to step in and help

those who need food, water, clothes and other necessities. As Catholics we should be ready to do our part to advance the common good of all.

The war in Syria has been devastating and has caused many to flee as refugees to survive. They were not welcome in many countries in Europe. So, many had no choice but to walk or ride a bus to welcoming countries, like Austria.

The citizens of Vienna, Austria, answered the call to come out and help by sharing food, water, clothing and more with the newly arriving refugees. Michael Landau, an Austrian Caritas employee said, “We don’t have a problem with refugees, we have a problem with solidarity in Europe at the moment.”

Austria: An Overwhelming Welcome

Watch the video about the citizens of Austria: [Click Here](#)>>

1. How does the Catholic teaching of Community and the Common Good help nourish human dignity, especially among the poor and suffering? How did this happen in Austria?
2. It can be challenging for Christians to reach out and accept refugees into their countries; what are some of the rewards for refugees and the citizens of the host country?
3. In our own country, there are those who fear accepting refugees; what are things you can say or do to make them feel better about welcoming refugees?
4. Can you think of examples in the Gospels where Jesus spoke about welcoming the stranger or refugee? See Matthew 25:31 - 46



Welcoming refugees

Mission Petitions

- ✚ Let us pray that our economy will better serve the common good.
- ✚ Let us pray that all workers and industries promote the good of all involved.
- ✚ Let us pray for the people of Austria who witness to faith by welcoming strangers and refugees who come to their doors.
- ✚ Let us pray that we each share what we have for the good of others and serve those who are most vulnerable.

Dear Lord,

I offer you myself and all that will happen this day. Help me to see your face in those I meet today and be ready to love my neighbor as you have loved me. Make me more like Jesus who is with us now and always.

Amen